

From: istone@mac.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 9:23pm
Subject: Re: Slashdot: News for nerds, stuff that matters

I am very upset with the proposed settlement. I am a network administrator working at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. I am one of the lucky few not forced to work on windows machines. Microsoft's Internet Explorer epitomizes the trouble we are having. Internet Explorer comes on every one of our PCs. In addition, our developers have been enticed into writing code which runs only on IE. This effectively freezes out UNIX machines, and sometimes Macintoshes, from accessing Laboratory web sites. Thus, there is increased pressure to migrate projects and people to the Windows platform.

If Microsoft were split into an OS group and an Apps group, there would not be as close a tie between IE and the OS. Other vendors would have an opportunity to write decent web apps. But, more importantly, I think there would be less "custom" microsoft only web code around. And the web would be as it was created, open to all platforms and people, equally.

Thank You,
Chris Stone